



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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KIRTLAND HOSTS RAPE DEFENSE COURSE

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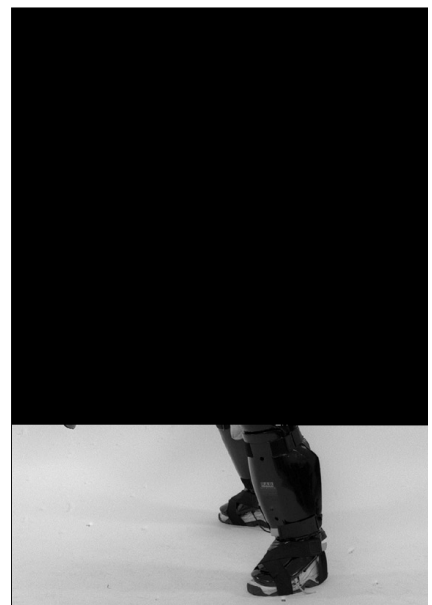
KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. — Seven women completed the Rape Aggression Defense Course recently at the west fitness center.

RAD is a comprehensive program that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance. The program proceeds on the basics of hands-on defense training, providing realistic self-defense tactics and techniques. All women, 12-years-old and older, may take the course.

Staff Sgt. Darryl S. Murphy, 1st Lt. Amy G. Peterson, Senior Airman Jennifer L. Perkins and Senior Airman Clifford C. Holden, all with the 377th Security Police Squadron, went to Brigham Young University, Utah, a few months ago to gain certification for teaching the program. RAD is not BYU's course, but the university is one of the locations where instructors learn the program.

The course costs \$20 and lasts for about 15 hours over two days (Saturday and Sunday). The cost includes instruction, a manual, and helps offset the cost of the equipment used during training.

Students spend about three hours the first day discussing awareness, prevention, risk



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reduction and avoidance. Later, they work on hits, blocks and escape techniques for the remainder of the first day.

On the second day, the students review defense techniques from the first day. Then the instructors take each student through three scenarios where the students must apply learned self-defense techniques to escape from a simulated “rapist.”

According to last weekend’s students, the simulation training was very scary and worthwhile.

“The program gave me more confidence in defending myself. I don’t ever want to be a victim,” said Lt. Col. Donna J. Fachetti, deputy commander for the 377th Support Group. “If I ever am attacked, this program gave me some definite techniques to counterattack,” she said.

Many of the graduates commented that they learned more than they expected during the two-day program. Chief Master Sgt. Joanne L. Klaus, superintendent of the Military Personnel Flight, said it was worth giving up one weekend to learn what the program offered. “The class was fun, informative and serves as a confidence builder,” Klaus said.

Kirtland is the second base in the Air Force and the only base in Air Force Materiel Command to teach the RAD course. Personnel at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., were the first in the Air Force to teach the course.

“Currently we’re the only program going in New Mexico,” Murphy said, adding that he would like to see that change.

“We’re trying to get the University of New Mexico, the Albuquerque Police Department, Cannon and Holloman AFBs involved so the program can spread throughout the state,” Murphy said.

When asked why they are teaching RAD here, Murphy said RAD is part of a community policing initiative. Part of that includes taking preventive measures. RAD helps women avoid risky situations. But if they find themselves backed into a corner, they have learned to defend themselves.

Offering the RAD program here has been in the works since June, but the 377th SPS needed money to get instructors certified and to purchase equipment.

The initial class was held at the west fitness center in February. Students in the initial class were: Lt. Col. Mary Kay Hertog, 377th SPS commander; Capt. Jane M. Vespermann of Field Command Defense Special Weapons Agency; Capt. Phyllis Robertson of the 377th Medical Operations Squadron and Kathy Lance, who is married to Lt. Col. Keith R. Lance, commander of the 377th Support Group.

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Last weekend's Graduates were:

Fachetti, Capt. Pamela M. Duncan of the 377th Judge Advocate Office, Klaus, Senior Master Sgt. MaryKay Chapman, first sergeant for the 377th SPS; Master Sgt. Nancy K. Dameworth of the Air Force Security Police Agency, Master Sgt. Cheryl Taaffe, first sergeant at the 551st Special Operations Squadron; and Drie Riggins, whose husband works at the 377th SPS.

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Story by: **Senior Airman Paul F. Gritton**

Nameline for photo: **Peterson (left) and Murphy demonstrate a technique a woman might use to escape from an aggressor.**

U.S. Air Force photo by: **Senior Airman Carlin Theus**

NOTE TO EDITORS: For more information, please contact Senior Airman Paul F. Gritton, (505) 846-7019/5991. DSN prefix is 246.